

# MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS TO SINGULAR FOURTH ORDER ELLIPTIC EQUATIONS

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**ABSTRACT.** Using the method of Nehari manifold, we prove the existence of at least two distinct weak solutions to elliptic equation of four order with singulatities and with critical Sobolev growth.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Fourth order elliptic equations have been intensively investigated the last tree decades particularly after the discovery of an important conformally invariant operator by Paneitz on 4 - dimensional Riemannian manifolds [19] and whose definition was extended to higher dimension by Branson [8]. This operator is closely related to the problem of prescribed  $Q$ - curvature. Many works have been devoted to this subject ( see [1], [2], [3], [4], [5], [6], [7], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17], [20], [21], [22], [23], [24] ). Let  $(M, g)$  a compact smooth Riemannian of dimension  $n \geq 5$  with a metric  $g$ . We denote by  $H_2^2(M)$  the standard Sobolev space which is the completion of the space  $C^\infty(M)$  with respect to the norm

$$\|\varphi\|_{2,2} = \sum_{k=0}^{k=2} \left\| \nabla^k \varphi \right\|_2.$$

$H_2^2(M)$  will be endowed with the equivalent suitable norm

$$\|u\|_{H_2^2(M)} = \left( \int_M \left( (\Delta_g u)^2 + |\nabla_g u|^2 + u^2 \right) dv_g \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Recently, Madani [18], has considered the Yamabe problem with singularities which he solved under some geometric conditions. The first author in [6] considered singular fourth order elliptic equations with of the form

$$(1.1) \quad \Delta^2 u - \nabla^i (a(x) \nabla_i u) + b(x) u = f |u|^{N-2} u$$

where the functions  $a$  and  $b$  are in  $L^s(M)$ ,  $s > \frac{n}{2}$  and in  $L^p(M)$ ,  $p > \frac{n}{4}$  respectively,  $N = \frac{2n}{n-4}$  is the Sobolev critical exponent in the embedding  $H_2^2(M) \hookrightarrow L^N(M)$ . He established the following result. Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact  $n$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold,  $n \geq 6$ ,  $a \in L^s(M)$ ,  $b \in$

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$L^p(M)$ , with  $s > \frac{n}{2}$ ,  $p > \frac{n}{4}$ ,  $f \in C^\infty(M)$  a positive function and  $x_o \in M$  such that  $f(x_o) = \max_{x \in M} f(x)$ .

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact  $n$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold,  $n \geq 6$ ,  $a \in L^s(M)$ ,  $b \in L^p(M)$ , with  $s > \frac{n}{2}$ ,  $p > \frac{n}{4}$ ,  $f \in C^\infty(M)$  a positive function and  $P \in M$  such that  $f(P) = \max_{x \in M} f(x)$ .*

*For  $n \geq 10$ , or  $n = 9$  and  $\frac{9}{4} < p < 11$  or  $n = 8$  and  $2 < p < 5$  or  $n = 7$  and  $\frac{7}{2} < s < 9$ ,  $\frac{7}{4} < p < 3$  we suppose that*

$$\frac{n^2 + 4n - 20}{6(n-6)(n^2-4)}R_g(P) - \frac{n-4}{2n(n-2)}\frac{\Delta f(P)}{f(P)} > 0.$$

*For  $n = 6$  and  $\frac{3}{2} < p < 2$ ,  $3 < s < 4$ , we suppose that*

$$R_g(P) > 0.$$

*Then the equation (1.1) has a non trivial weak solution  $u$  in  $H_2^2(M)$ . Moreover if  $a \in H_1^s(M)$ , then*

$$u \in C^{0,\beta}, \text{ for some } \beta \in \left(0, 1 - \frac{n}{4p}\right).$$

For fixed  $R \in M$ , we define the function  $\rho$  on  $M$  by

$$(1.2) \quad \rho(Q) = \begin{cases} d(R, Q) & \text{if } d(R, Q) < \delta(M) \\ \delta(M) & \text{if } d(R, Q) \geq \delta(M) \end{cases}$$

where  $\delta(M)$  denotes the injectivity radius of  $M$ .

In this paper, we are concerned with the following problem: for real numbers  $\sigma$  and  $\mu$ , consider the equation in the distribution sense

$$(1.3) \quad \Delta^2 u - \nabla^i(a\rho^{-\mu}\nabla_i u) + \rho^{-\alpha}bu = \lambda |u|^{q-2}u + f(x)|u|^{N-2}u$$

where the functions  $a$  and  $b$  are smooth  $M$  and  $1 < q < 2$ . Denote also by  $P_g$  the operator define on  $H_2^2(M)$  by  $u \rightarrow P_g(u) = \Delta^2 u - \nabla^i(a\rho^{-\mu}\nabla_i u) + \rho^{-\alpha}bu$ . Our main results state as follows:

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $0 < \sigma < 2$  and  $0 < \mu < 4$ . Suppose that the operator  $P_g$  is coercive and*

$$(C) \quad \begin{cases} \frac{\Delta f(x_o)}{f(x_o)} < \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{(n-1)n(n^2+4n-20)}{(n^2-4)(n-4)(n-6)} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r + \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^\mu} \right\|_s\right)^{\frac{4}{n}}} - 1 \right) S_g(x_o) & \text{in case } n > 6 \\ S_g(x_o) > 0 & \text{in case } n = 6. \end{cases}$$

*Then there is  $\lambda_* > 0$  such that if  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_*)$ , the equation (1.3) possesses at least two distinct non trivial solutions in the distribution sense.*

The proof of Theorem 2 relies on the following Hardy-Sobolev inequality ( see [4]).

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact  $n$ -dimensional Riemannian manifold, and  $p, q$  and  $\gamma$  real numbers satisfying*

$$1 \leq q \leq p \leq \frac{nq}{n-2q}, \quad n > 2q, \quad \frac{\gamma}{p} = -2 + n \left( \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p} \right) > -\frac{n}{p}.$$

For any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a constant  $A(\varepsilon, q, \gamma)$  such that

$$\forall f \in H_2^q(M), \quad \|f\|_{p, \rho^\gamma}^q \leq (1 + \varepsilon) K^q(n, q, \gamma) \|\nabla^2 f\|_q^q + A(\varepsilon, q, \gamma) \|f\|_q^q.$$

In particular in case  $\gamma = 0$ ,  $K(n, q, 0) = K(n, q)$  is the best constant in Sobolev's inequality.

For brevity along all this work we put  $K_o = K(n, 2)$ .

Let  $\sigma$  and  $\mu$  be as in Theorem 2, the Hardy- Sobolev inequality given by Lemma 1 leads to

$$\int_M \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{\rho^\sigma} dv_g \leq C(\|\nabla |\nabla u|\|^2 + \|\nabla u\|^2)$$

and since

$$\|\nabla |\nabla u|\|^2 \leq \|\nabla^2 u\|^2 \leq \|\Delta u\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u\|^2$$

where  $\beta > 0$  is a constant and it is well known that for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a constant  $c(\varepsilon) > 0$  such that

$$\|\nabla u\|^2 \leq \varepsilon \|\Delta u\|^2 + c \|\nabla u\|^2.$$

Hence

$$(1.4) \quad \int_M \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{\rho^\sigma} dv_g \leq C(1 + \varepsilon) \|\Delta u\|^2 + A(\varepsilon, \sigma) \|u\|^2.$$

Let  $K(n, 2, \sigma)$  be the best constant in inequality (1.4) and  $K(n, 2, \mu)$  the best one in the inequality

$$\int_M \frac{|u|^2}{\rho^\mu} dv_g \leq C(1 + \varepsilon) \|\Delta u\|^2 + A(\varepsilon, \mu) \|u\|^2.$$

For any  $0 < \sigma < 2$  and  $0 < \mu < 4$ , let  $u_{\sigma, \mu}$  be the solution of Equation (1.7). In the sharp case  $\sigma = 2$  and  $\mu = 4$ , we obtain the following result

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian compact manifold of dimension  $n \geq 5$ . Suppose that the operator  $P_g$  is coercive and let  $(u_{\sigma, \mu})_{\sigma, \mu}$  be a sequence in  $M_\lambda$  such that*

$$\begin{cases} J_{\lambda, \sigma, \mu}(u_{\sigma, \mu}) \leq c_{\sigma, \mu} \\ \nabla J_\lambda(u_{\sigma, \mu}) - \mu_{\sigma, \mu} \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u_{\sigma, \mu}) \rightarrow 0 \end{cases}.$$

Suppose that

$$c_{\sigma, \mu} < \frac{2}{n K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (f(x_\circ))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}}$$

and

$$1 + a^- \max(K(n, 2, \sigma), A(\varepsilon, \sigma)) + b^- \max(K(n, 2, \mu), A(\varepsilon, \mu)) > 0$$

then the equation

$$\Delta^2 u - \nabla^\mu \left( \frac{a}{\rho^2} \nabla_\mu u \right) + \frac{bu}{\rho^4} = f |u|^{N-2} u + \lambda |u|^{q-2} u$$

has at least two distinct non trivial solutions in distribution sense.

We consider the energy functional  $J_\lambda$  defined by for each  $u \in H_2^2(M)$  by

$$\begin{aligned} J_\lambda(u) = & \frac{1}{2} \int_M \left( (\Delta_g u)^2 - a(x) \rho^{-\sigma} |\nabla_g u|^2 + b(x) \rho^{-\mu} u^2 \right) dv(g) - \frac{\lambda}{q} \int_M |u|^q dv(g) \\ & - \frac{1}{N} \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g). \end{aligned}$$

Put

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_\lambda(u) = & \langle \nabla J_\lambda(u), u \rangle \\ = & \int_M \left( (\Delta_g u)^2 - a(x) \rho^{-\sigma} |\nabla_g u|^2 + b(x) \rho^{-\mu} u^2 \right) dv(g) - \lambda \int_M |u|^q dv(g) \\ & - \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u), u \rangle = & 2 \int_M \left( (\Delta_g u)^2 - a(x) \rho^{-\sigma} |\nabla_g u|^2 + b(x) \rho^{-\mu} u^2 \right) dv(g) - \lambda q \int_M |u|^q dv(g) \\ & - \lambda q \int_M |u|^q dv(g) - N \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g). \end{aligned}$$

It is well-known that the solutions of equation (1.3) are critical points of the energy functional  $J_\lambda$ . The Nehari minimization problem writes as follows

$$\alpha_\lambda = \inf \{J_\lambda(u) : u \in N_\lambda\} = \inf_{u \in N_\lambda} J_\lambda(u)$$

where

$$N_\lambda = \{u \in H_2^2(M) \setminus \{0\} : \Phi_\lambda(u) = 0\}.$$

Note that  $N_\lambda$  contains every solution of equation (1.3).  $N_\lambda$  splits in three parts

$$\begin{aligned} N_\lambda^+ &= \{u \in N_\lambda : \langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u), u \rangle > 0\} \\ N_\lambda^- &= \{u \in N_\lambda : \langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u), u \rangle < 0\} \\ N_\lambda^0 &= \{u \in N_\lambda : \langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u), u \rangle = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Before stating our main result, we give some nice properties of  $N_\lambda^+$ ,  $N_\lambda^-$  and  $N_\lambda^0$ .

Let

$$(1.5) \quad \lambda_\circ = \frac{(N-2)q \Lambda^{\frac{q}{2}}}{2(N-q)V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}}(\max(K_\circ, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}}}$$

The following lemma shows that the minimizers of  $J_\lambda$  on  $N_\lambda$  are usually critical points for  $J_\lambda$ .

**Lemma 2.** Let  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_0)$ , if  $v$  is a local minimizer for  $J_\lambda$  on  $N_\lambda$  and  $v \notin N_\lambda^0$ , then  $\nabla J_\lambda(v) = 0$ .

*Proof.* If  $v$  is a local minimizer for  $J_\lambda$  on  $N_\lambda$ , then by Lagrange multipliers' theorem, there is a real  $\theta$  such that for any  $\varphi \in H_2^2(M)$

$$\langle \nabla J_\lambda(v), \varphi \rangle = \theta \langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(v), \varphi \rangle$$

If  $\theta = 0$ , then the lemma is proved. If it is not the case we pick  $\varphi = v$  and we use the assumption that  $v \in N_\lambda$  to infer that

$$\langle \nabla J_\lambda(v), v \rangle = \theta \langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(v), v \rangle = 0$$

which contradicts that  $v \notin N_\lambda^0$ .  $\square$

Now we give some preparatory lemmas.

**Lemma 3.** There is  $\lambda_1 > 0$  such that for any  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_1)$  the set  $N_\lambda^0$  is empty .

*Proof.* Suppose for every  $\lambda > 0$  there is  $\lambda' \in (0, \lambda)$  such that  $N_{\lambda'}^0 \neq \emptyset$  and let  $u \in N_{\lambda'}^0$  i.e.

$$\langle \nabla \Phi_{\lambda'}(u), u \rangle = 2 \|u\|^2 - \lambda' q \|u\|_q^q - N \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g) = 0$$

and by the fact that

$$\Phi_{\lambda'}(u) = \|u\|^2 - \lambda' \|u\|_q^q - \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g) = 0$$

we get

$$(1.6) \quad \|u\|^2 = \frac{N-q}{2-q} \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g)$$

and also

$$(1.7) \quad \lambda' \|u\|_q^q = \frac{N-2}{2-q} \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g).$$

Independently by the Sobolev's inequality and the coerciveness of the operator  $P_g$  we obtain

$$(1.8) \quad \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g) \leq \Lambda^{-\frac{N}{2}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{N}{2}} \max_{x \in M} f(x) \|u\|^N$$

where  $\Lambda$  denotes a constant of the coercivity. From (1.6) and (1.8) we deduce that

$$\|u\| \geq \left[ \frac{(N-q) \Lambda^{-\frac{N}{2}} ((\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{N}{2}} \max_{x \in M} f(x))}{(2-q)} \right]^{\frac{1}{2-N}}$$

Let the functional  $I_{\lambda'} : N_\lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is given by

$$I_{\lambda'}(u) = \left[ \left( \frac{N-q}{2-q} \right)^{\frac{q}{2}} \frac{2-q}{N-2} \right]^{\frac{2}{2-q}} \left( \frac{\|u\|_q^q}{\lambda' \|u\|_q^q} \right)^{\frac{2}{q-2}} - \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g).$$

If  $u \in N_{\lambda'}^0$ , then (1.6) and (1.7) give

$$I_{\lambda'}(u) = \left[ \left( \frac{N-q}{2-q} \right)^{\frac{q}{2}} \frac{2-q}{N-2} \right]^{\frac{2}{2-q}} \left[ \frac{\left( \frac{N-q}{2-q} \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g) \right)^{\frac{q}{2}}}{\frac{N-2}{2-q} \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g)} \right]^{\frac{2}{q-2}}$$

$$(1.9) \quad - \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g) = 0.$$

Putting

$$\theta = \left[ \left( \frac{N-q}{2-q} \right)^{\frac{q}{2}} \frac{2-q}{N-2} \right]^{\frac{2}{2-q}}$$

and taking account of the coerciveness of the operator  $P_g$  and the Sobolev's inequality one get

$$I_{\lambda'}(u) \geq \theta \left( \frac{\|u\|^q}{\lambda^{\frac{N-q}{Nq}} \Lambda^{-\frac{q}{2}} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}} \|u\|^q} \right)^{\frac{2}{q-2}}$$

$$- \Lambda^{-\frac{N}{2}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{N}{2}} \max_{x \in M} f(x) \|u\|^N.$$

That is to say

$$I_{\lambda'}(u) \geq \left( \frac{\Lambda^{\frac{q}{2}} \left( \frac{N-q}{2-q} \right)^{\frac{q}{2}} \left( \frac{2-q}{N-2} \right) \left( \frac{Nq}{N-q} \right)}{\lambda' V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}}} \right)^{\frac{2}{q-2}}$$

$$- \left( \left( \frac{N-q}{2-q} \right) \Lambda^{-\frac{N}{2}} ((\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{N}{2}} \max_{x \in M} f(x)) \right)^{\frac{2}{2-N}}.$$

Hence, if  $\lambda$  is sufficiently small, so as  $\lambda' > 0$  and  $I_{\lambda'}(u) > 0$  for all  $u \in N_{\lambda'}^0$ . This contradicts (1.9). So there is  $\lambda_1 > 0$ , such that for any  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_1)$ , the set  $N_\lambda^0 = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

From Lemma 3,  $N_\lambda$  splits as  $N_\lambda = N_\lambda^+ \cup N_\lambda^-$  where  $0 < \lambda < \lambda_1$ . We define

$$\alpha_\lambda = \inf_{u \in N_\lambda} J_\lambda(u), \quad \alpha_\lambda^+ = \inf_{u \in N_\lambda^+} J_\lambda(u) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_\lambda^- = \inf_{u \in N_\lambda^-} J_\lambda(u)$$

**Lemma 4.** *For each  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_0)$ , the functional  $J_\lambda$  is bounded from below on  $N_\lambda$ .*

*Proof.* If  $u \in N_\lambda$ , then by equality (1.6) and the Sobolev's inequality, we deduce that

$$J_\lambda(u) \geq \frac{N-2}{2N} \|u\|^2 - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}} \|u\|_{H_2^2(M)}^q$$

and taking account of the coerciveness of the operator  $P_g$ , we infer that

$$J_\lambda(u) \geq \frac{N-2}{2N} \|u\|^2 - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \Lambda^{-\frac{q}{2}} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}} \|u\|^q$$

where  $\Lambda$  is a constant of coercivity.

If  $u \in N_\lambda$  and  $\|u\| \geq 1$ ,

$$J_\lambda(u) \geq \left[ \frac{N-2}{2N} - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \Lambda^{-\frac{q}{2}} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}} \right] \|u\|^q$$

So, if

$$0 < \lambda < \frac{(N-2)q \Lambda^{\frac{q}{2}}}{2(N-q)V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}}(\max(K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}}} := \lambda_0$$

then

$$J_\lambda(u) > 0$$

If  $u \in N_\lambda$  with  $\|u\| < 1$ , we have

$$J_\lambda(u) > -\lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \Lambda^{-\frac{q}{2}} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_0, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}}.$$

Thus  $J_\lambda$  is bounded below on  $N_\lambda$ .  $\square$

As a consequence of Lemma 2 we have

**Lemma 5.** *If  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_0)$ , we have*

$$\alpha_\lambda^+ = \inf_{u \in N_\lambda^+} J_\lambda(u) < 0.$$

*Proof.* If  $u \in N_\lambda^+$ , then

$$J_\lambda(u) = \frac{N-2}{2N} \|u\|^2 - \frac{\lambda(N-q)}{Nq} \|u\|_q^q$$

and since

$$\langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u), u \rangle = 2\|u\|^2 - \lambda q \|u\|_q^q - N \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g) > 0$$

we get

$$J_\lambda(u) \leq \frac{\lambda(N-q)}{N} \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{q} \right) \|u\|_q^q < 0$$

i.e.

$$\inf_{u \in N_\lambda^+} J_\lambda(u) < 0.$$

$\square$

**Lemma 6.** *For every  $\lambda \in (0, \min(\lambda_0, \lambda_1))$ ,*

$$\alpha_\lambda^- = \inf_{u \in N_\lambda^-} J_\lambda(u) > 0.$$

*Proof.* If  $u \in N_\lambda^-$ , then

$$J_\lambda(u) = \frac{N-2}{2N} \|u\|^2 - \frac{\lambda(N-q)}{Nq} \|u\|_q^q$$

and since

$$(1.10) \quad \langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u), u \rangle = 2\|u\|^2 - \lambda q \|u\|_q^q - N \int_M f(x) |u|^N dv(g) < 0$$

we infer that

$$(1.11) \quad \|u\|^2 > \frac{\lambda(N-q)}{(N-2)} \|u\|_q^q.$$

By Sobolev's inequality and from the coerciveness of the operator  $P_g$ , there exists a constant  $\Lambda > 0$ , such that

$$J_\lambda(u) \geq \frac{N-2}{2N} \|u\|^2 - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \Lambda^{-\frac{q}{2}} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_\circ, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}} \|u\|^q.$$

So if  $u \in N_\lambda^-$  and  $\|u\| \geq 1$ ,

$$(1.12) \quad J_\lambda(u) \geq \left[ \frac{N-2}{2N} - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \Lambda^{-\frac{q}{2}} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_\circ, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}} \right] \|u\|^q$$

hence if

$$0 < \lambda < \frac{(N-2)q \Lambda^{\frac{q}{2}}}{2(N-q)V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}}(\max((1+\varepsilon)K_\circ, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}}} = \lambda_\circ$$

then

$$J_\lambda(u) > 0$$

In case  $u \in N_\lambda^-$  and  $\|u\| < 1$ , by Sobolev's inequality, the inequality (1.10) and the coerciveness of the operator  $P_g$ , we obtain

$$0 < \xi \leq \|u\| < 1$$

where

$$\xi = \left[ \frac{(2-q)\Lambda^{\frac{N}{2}}(\max((1+\varepsilon)K_\circ, A_\varepsilon))^{-\frac{N}{2}}}{(N-q)\max_{x \in M} f(x)} \right]^{\frac{1}{N-2}}$$

and  $\Lambda$  is a constant of coerciveness.

The inequality (1.12) becomes

$$J_\lambda(u) \geq \frac{N-2}{2N} \xi^2 - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \Lambda^{-\frac{q}{2}} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K_\circ, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}}$$

Hence, if we take

$$(1.13) \quad 0 < \lambda < \frac{\frac{(N-2)}{2(N-q)} \xi^2 \Lambda^{\frac{q}{2}}}{V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max(K_\circ, A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}}} = \lambda_2$$

then if  $\lambda \in (0, \min(\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2))$  we obtain

$$J_\lambda(u) \geq C > 0$$

where  $C$  is constant depending on  $N$ ,  $\Lambda$ ,  $V(M)$ ,  $K_o$  and  $A_\varepsilon$ . So

$$\inf_{u \in N_\lambda^-} J_\lambda(u) > 0.$$

□

For each  $u \in H_2 - \{0\}$ , define

$$E(t) = t^{2-q} \|u\|^2 - t^{N-q} \int_M f |u|^N dv_g$$

so  $E(0) = 0$  and  $E(t)$  goes to  $-\infty$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . Also for  $t > 0$ , we have

$$E'(t) = (2-q)t^{1-q} \|u\|^2 - (N-q)t^{N-q-1} \int_M f |u|^N dv_g$$

and  $E'(t) = 0$  at

$$t_o = \left( \frac{2-q}{N-q} \right)^{\frac{1}{N-2}} \left( \frac{\|u\|^2}{\int_M f |u|^N dv_g} \right)^{\frac{1}{N-2}}.$$

Hence  $E(t)$  achieves its maximum at  $t_o$  and it is increasing on  $[0, t_o)$  and decreasing on  $[t_o, +\infty)$ .

Evaluating the function  $E$  at  $t_o$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} E(t_o) &= \left( \frac{2-q}{N-q} \right)^{\frac{2-q}{N-2}} \left( \frac{\|u\|^2}{\int_M f |u|^N dv_g} \right)^{\frac{2-q}{N-q}} \|u\|^2 \\ &\quad - \left( \frac{2-q}{N-q} \right)^{\frac{N-q}{N-2}} \left( \frac{\|u\|^2}{\int_M f |u|^N dv_g} \right)^{\frac{N-q}{N-2}} \int_M f |u|^N dv_g \\ &= \frac{N-2}{N-q} \left( \frac{2-q}{N-q} \right)^{\frac{2-q}{N-2}} \frac{\|u\|^{\frac{2(N-q)}{N-2}}}{\left( \int_M f |u|^N dv_g \right)^{\frac{2-q}{N-2}}}. \end{aligned}$$

By the Sobolev's inequality we get for any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M f |u|^N dv_g &\leq \|f\|_\infty \left( (K_o^2 + \epsilon) \|\Delta u\|_2^2 + A(\epsilon) \|u\|_2^2 \right)^{\frac{N}{2}} \\ &\leq \|f\|_\infty \max(K_o^2 + \epsilon, A(\epsilon))^{\frac{N}{2}} \|u\|_{H_2^2}^N \\ &\leq \Lambda^{-\frac{N}{2}} \|f\|_\infty \max(K_o^2 + \epsilon, A(\epsilon))^{\frac{N}{2}} \|u\|^N \\ &= C^{\frac{N}{2}} \|f\|_\infty \|u\|^N \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Lambda$  is the constant of the coercivity,  $K_o$  the best constant in the Sobolev's inequality and  $A(\epsilon)$  the correspondent constant,  $\|f\|_\infty = \sup_{x \in M} |f(x)|$  and  $C = \Lambda^{-1} \max(K_o^2 + \epsilon, A(\epsilon))$ .

Consequently

$$(1.14) \quad E(t_o) \geq \frac{N-2}{N-q} \left( \frac{2-q}{N-q} \right)^{\frac{2-q}{N-q}} C^{\frac{N(q-2)}{2(N-2)}} \|f\|_\infty \|u\|^q.$$

Independently and in the same way as above we get

$$(1.15) \quad \|u\|_q^q \leq \Lambda^{-\frac{q}{2}} \text{vol}(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} C^{\frac{q}{2}} \|u\|^q.$$

Hence

$$E(0) = 0 < \lambda \|u\|_q^q \leq E(t_o)$$

provided that

$$\lambda \leq \frac{\frac{N-2}{N-q} \left( \frac{2-q}{N-q} \right)^{\frac{2-q}{N-q}} \|f\|_\infty}{\text{vol}(M)^{1-\frac{q}{2}} C^{\frac{N-q}{N-2}}}.$$

Consequently by the nature of the function  $E(t)$  we infer the existence of  $t^-$ ,  $t^+$  with  $0 < t^+ < t^o < t^-$  such that

$$(1.16) \quad \lambda \|u\|_q^q = E(t^+) = E(t^-).$$

and

$$E'(t^+) > 0 > E'(t^-)$$

Now we evaluate  $\Phi_\lambda$  at  $t^- u$  and at  $t^+ u$  to get

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_\lambda(t^- u) &= \langle \nabla J_\lambda(t^- u), t^- u \rangle \\ &= (t^-)^2 \|u\|^2 - (t^-)^N \int_M f |u|^N dv_g - \lambda (t^-)^q \|u\|_q^q \\ &= (t^-)^q \left( (t^-)^{2-q} \|u\|^2 - (t^-)^{N-q} \int_M f |u|^N dv_g - \lambda \|u\|_q^q \right) \end{aligned}$$

and by (1.16) we deduce that

$$\Phi_\lambda(t^- u) = 0$$

and also we get

$$\Phi_\lambda(t^+ u) = 0.$$

Moreover, we have

$$\langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(t^- u), t^- u \rangle = 2(t^-)^2 \|u\|^2 - N(t^-)^N \int_M f |u|^N dv_g - q(t^-)^q \lambda \|u\|_q^q$$

and taking account of (1.16) we infer that

$$\langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(t^- u), t^- u \rangle = (2-q)(t^-)^2 \|u\|^2 - (N-q)(t^-)^N \int_M f |u|^N dv_g$$

and again by (1.16) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(t^- u), t^- u \rangle &= (t^-)^{1+q} \left( (2-q)(t^-)^{1-q} \|u\|^2 - (N-q)(t^-)^{N-q-1} \int_M f |u|^N dv_g \right) \\ &= (t^-)^{1+q} E'(t^-) < 0 \end{aligned}$$

that means that  $t^- u \in N_\lambda^-$ . By similar procedure we get also  $t^+ u \in N_\lambda^+$ .

## 2. EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL MINIMIZER FOR $J_\lambda$ ON $N_\lambda^+$ AND $N_\lambda^-$

In this section we focus on the existence of a local minimum of  $J_\lambda$  on  $N_\lambda^+$  and  $N_\lambda^-$  to do so we will be in need of the following Hardy-Sobolev inequality and Rellich-Kondrakov embedding respectively whose proofs are given in ([6]). The weighted  $L^p(M, \rho^\gamma)$  space will be the set of measurable functions  $u$  on  $M$  such that  $\rho^\gamma |u|^p$  are integrable where  $p \geq 1$  and  $\gamma$  are real numbers. We endow  $L^p(M, \rho^\gamma)$  with the norm

$$\|u\|_{p,\rho} = \left( \int_M \rho^\gamma |u|^p dv_g \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian compact manifold of dimension  $n \geq 5$  and  $p, q, \gamma$  are real numbers such that  $\frac{\gamma}{p} = \frac{n}{q} - \frac{n}{p} - 2$  and  $2 \leq p \leq \frac{2n}{n-4}$ . For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is  $A(\epsilon, q, \gamma)$  such that for any  $u \in H_2^2(M)$*

$$\|u\|_{p,\rho^\gamma}^2 \leq (1 + \epsilon)K(n, 2, \gamma)^2 \|\Delta_g u\|_2^2 + A(\epsilon, q, \gamma) \|u\|_2^2$$

where  $K(n, 2, \gamma)$  is the optimal constant.

In case  $\gamma = 0$ ,  $K(n, 2, 0) = K(n, 2) = K_o^{\frac{1}{2}}$  is the best constant in the Sobolev's embedding of  $H_2^2(M)$  in  $L^N(M)$  where  $N = \frac{2n}{n-4}$ .

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact Riemannian manifold of dimension  $n \geq 5$  and  $p, q, \gamma$  are real numbers satisfying  $1 \leq q \leq p \leq \frac{nq}{n-2q}$ ,  $\gamma < 0$  and  $l = 1, 2$ .*

*If  $\frac{\gamma}{p} = n(\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}) - l$  then the inclusion  $H_l^q(M) \subset L^p(M, \rho^\gamma)$  is continuous.  
If  $\frac{\gamma}{p} > n(\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}) - l$  then inclusion  $H_l^q(M) \subset L^p(M, \rho^\gamma)$  is compact.*

The following variant of the Ekeland's variational principle will be also useful

**Lemma 7.** *If  $V$  is a Banach space and  $J \in C^1(V, \mathbb{R})$  is bounded from below, then there exists a minimizing sequence  $(u_n)$  for  $J$  in  $V$  such that  $J(u_n) \rightarrow \inf_V J$  and  $J'(u_n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .*

**Lemma 8.** *For any  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_\circ)$*

- (i) *There exists a minimizing sequence  $(u_m)_m \subset N_\lambda$  such that  $J_\lambda(u_m) = \alpha_\lambda + o(1)$  and  $\nabla J_\lambda(u_m) = o(1)$*
- (ii) *There exists a minimizing sequence  $(u_m)_m \subset N_\lambda^-$  such that  $J_\lambda(u_m) = \alpha_\lambda^- + o(1)$  and  $\nabla J_\lambda(u_m) = o(1)$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 4 and the Enkland's variational principle ( see 7)  $J_\lambda$  admits a Palais-Smale sequence at level  $\alpha_\lambda$  in  $N_\lambda$  ( the same is also true for (ii) ).  $\square$

Now, we establish the existence of a local minimum for  $J_\lambda$  on  $N_\lambda^+$

**Theorem 6.** *Let  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_\circ)$ , and suppose that a sequence  $(u_m)_m \subset N_\lambda^+$  fulfills*

$$\begin{cases} J_\lambda(u_m) \leq c \\ \nabla J_\lambda(u_m) - \mu_m \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u_m) \rightarrow 0 \end{cases}$$

with

$$(C1) \quad c < \frac{2}{n K_\sigma^{\frac{n}{4}} (\max_{x \in M} f(x))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}}.$$

Then the functional  $J_\lambda$  has a minimizer  $u^+$  in  $N_\lambda^+$  which satisfies

- (i)  $J_\lambda(u^+) = \alpha_\lambda^+ < 0$ ,
- (ii)  $u^+$  is a nontrivial solution of equation (1.3).

*Proof.* Let  $(u_m)_m \subset N_\lambda^+$  be a Palais-Smale sequence for  $J_\lambda$  on  $N_\lambda$  i.e.

$$J_\lambda(u_m) = \alpha_\lambda + o(1) \text{ and } \nabla J_\lambda(u_m) = o(1) \text{ in } H_2^2(M)'.$$

Obviously

$$-\alpha_\lambda + o(1) \leq J_\lambda(u_m) - \frac{1}{q} \langle \nabla J_\lambda(u_m), u_m \rangle \leq \alpha_\lambda + o(1)$$

or

$$-\alpha_\lambda + o(1) \leq \left( \frac{N-2}{2N} - \frac{N-2}{Nq} \right) \|u_m\|^2 \leq \alpha_\lambda + o(1).$$

Hence

$$\alpha_\lambda \left( \frac{N-2}{Nq} - \frac{N-2}{2N} \right)^{-1} + o(1) \leq \|u_m\|^2 \leq -\alpha_\lambda \left( \frac{N-2}{Nq} - \frac{N-2}{2N} \right)^{-1} + o(1)$$

so the sequence  $(u_m)_m$  is bounded in  $H_2^2(M)$  and by the well known Sobolev's embedding, we get up to a subsequence that

$$u_m \rightarrow u^+ \text{ weakly in } H_2^2(M).$$

$$u_m \rightarrow u^+ \text{ strongly in } L^p(M) \text{ for } 1 < p < N = \frac{2n}{n-4}.$$

$$\nabla u_m \rightarrow \nabla u^+ \text{ strongly in } L^q(M) \text{ for } 1 < q < 2^* = \frac{2n}{n-2}.$$

$$u_m \rightarrow u^+ \text{ a.e in } M.$$

Put

$$w_m := u_m - u^+$$

by Brézis-Lieb Lemma ( see [9]), we obtain

$$\|\Delta_g u_m\|_2^2 - \|\Delta_g u^+\|_2^2 = \|\Delta_g w_m\|_2^2 + o(1)$$

and

$$\int_M f(x) (|u_m|^N - |u^+|^N) dv(g) = \int_M f(x) |w_m|^N dv(g) + o(1)$$

Now since  $\sigma \in (0, 2)$  and  $\mu \in (0, 4)$ , by Theorem 5 we infer that  $\nabla u_m \rightarrow \nabla u^+$  strongly in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-\sigma})$  and  $u_m \rightarrow u^+$  strongly in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-\mu})$ . First, we prove that  $u^+ \in N_\lambda$ .

Taking into account of the strong convergences of  $\nabla u_m \rightarrow \nabla u^+$  in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-\sigma})$  and  $u_m \rightarrow u^+$  in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-\mu})$ , we obtain

$$J_\lambda(u_m) - J_\lambda(u^+)$$

$$(2.1) \quad = \frac{1}{2} \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 - \frac{1}{N} \int_M f(x) |u_m - u^+|^N dv(g) + o(1).$$

Since  $u_m - u^+ \rightarrow 0$  weakly in  $H_2^2(M)$ , we test by  $\nabla J_\lambda(u_m) - \nabla J_\lambda(u)$  and get

$$(2.2) \quad \langle \nabla J_\lambda(u_m) - \nabla J_\lambda(u^+), u_m - u^+ \rangle = \\ \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 - \int_M f(x) |u_m - u^+|^N dv(g) = o(1).$$

So by (2.2), we obtain

$$J_\lambda(u_m) - J_\lambda(u^+) = \frac{1}{2} \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 - \frac{1}{N} \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 + o(1)$$

i.e.

$$J_\lambda(u_m) - J_\lambda(u^+) = \frac{2}{n} \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 + o(1).$$

By Sobolev's inequality, we have for all  $u \in H_2^2(M)$

$$\|u\|_N^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon) K_\circ \int_M (\Delta_g u)^2 + |\nabla_g u|^2 dv(g) + A_\varepsilon \int_M u^2 dv(g)$$

We test the Sobolev's inequality by  $u_m - u$ , to get

$$(2.3) \quad \|u_m - u^+\|_N^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon) K_\circ \int_M (\Delta_g (u_m - u^+))^2 dv(g) + o(1).$$

Then (2.3) implies that

$$\int_M f(x) |u_m - u^+|^N dv(g) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \max_{x \in M} f(x) K_\circ^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^N + o(1)$$

and by (2.2) one writes

$$o(1) \geq \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 - (1 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \max_{x \in M} f(x) K_\circ^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^N + o(1).$$

or in another words

$$o(1) \geq \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 (1 - (1 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \max_{x \in M} f(x) K_\circ^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^{N-2}) + o(1).$$

Hence if

$$\limsup_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \|\Delta_g (u_m - u^+)\|_2^{N-2} < \frac{1}{(1 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{n}{n-4}} K_\circ^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \max_{x \in M} f(x)}$$

we get

$$\frac{2}{n} \int_M (\Delta_g (u_m - u^+))^2 dv(g) < c.$$

and since by assumption

$$c < \frac{2}{n K_\circ^{\frac{n}{4}} (\max_{x \in M} f(x))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}}$$

we deduce that

$$\int_M (\Delta_g(u_m - u^+))^2 dv(g) < \frac{1}{K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (\max_{x \in M} f(x))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}}.$$

Hence

$$o(1) \geq \|\Delta_g(u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 \underbrace{(1 - (1 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \max_{x \in M} f(x) K_o^{\frac{n}{n-4}} \|\Delta_g(u_m - u^+)\|_2^{N-2})}_{>0} + o(1)$$

or

$$\|\Delta_g(u_m - u^+)\|_2^2 = o(1)$$

i.e.  $u_m \rightarrow u^+$  converges strongly in  $H_2^2(M)$ .

Obviously  $u^+ \in N_\lambda$ . We claim that  $u^+ \in N_\lambda^+$  since it is not the case  $u^+ \in N_\lambda^-$ , thus  $\langle \nabla J_\lambda(u^+), u^+ \rangle = 0$  and  $\langle \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u^+), u^+ \rangle < 0$ , which implies that  $J_\lambda(u^+) > 0$ , contradiction.

Then,

$$J_\lambda(u^+) = \alpha_\lambda^+ = \alpha_\lambda < 0.$$

Now, we want to prove that  $u^+$  is a trivial solution to equation (1.3) but this follows from Lemma 2 since in that case  $u^+$  is a global minimizer of  $J_\lambda$  in  $H_2^2(M)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda_o)$  and suppose that a sequence  $(u_m)_m \subset N_\lambda^-$  fulfills*

$$\begin{cases} J_\lambda(u_m) \leq c \\ \nabla J_\lambda(u_m) - \mu_m \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u_m) \rightarrow 0 \end{cases}$$

with

$$(2.4) \quad c < \frac{2}{n K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (\max_{x \in M} f(x))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}}.$$

Then the functional  $J_\lambda$  has a minimizer  $u^-$  in  $N_\lambda^-$  and it satisfies

- (i)  $J_\lambda(u^-) = \alpha_\lambda^- > 0$ ,
- (ii)  $u^-$  is a nontrivial solution of equation (1.1).

*Proof.* The proof is similar to that of Theorem 6, so we omit it.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** *The nontrivial solutions  $u^+$  and  $u^-$  of equation (1.1) given by Theorem 6 and Theorem 7 are distinct since  $u^+ \in N_\lambda^+$ ,  $u^- \in N_\lambda^-$  and  $N_\lambda^+ \cap N_\lambda^- = \emptyset$ .*

### 3. THE SHARP CASE $\sigma = 2$ AND $\mu = 4$

By section four, for any  $\sigma \in (0, 2)$  and  $\mu \in (0, 4)$ , there is a weak solution  $u_{\sigma,\mu}^+ \in N_\lambda^+$  (resp.  $u_{\sigma,\mu}^- \in N_\lambda^-$ ) of equation (1.3). Now we are going to show

that the sequence  $(u_{\sigma,\mu}^+)_{{\sigma,\mu}}$  and  $(u_{\sigma,\mu}^-)_{{\sigma,\mu}}$  are bounded in  $H_2^2(M)$ . First of all we have

$$J_{\lambda,\sigma,\mu}(u_{\sigma,\mu}) = \frac{1}{2} \|u_{\sigma,\mu}\|^2 - \frac{1}{N} \int_M f(x) |u_{\sigma,\mu}|^N dv_g - \frac{1}{q} \lambda \int_M |u_{\sigma,\mu}|^q dv_g$$

and since  $u_{\sigma,\mu} \in N_\lambda$ , we infer that

$$J_{\lambda,\sigma,\mu}(u_{\sigma,\mu}) = \frac{N-2}{2N} \|u_{\sigma,\mu}\|^2 - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \int_M |u_{\sigma,\mu}|^q dv_g.$$

For a smooth function  $a$  on  $M$ , denotes by  $a^- = \min(0, \min_{x \in M}(a(x)))$ . Let  $K(n, 2, \sigma)$  the best constant and  $A(\varepsilon, \sigma)$  the constants in the Hardy-Sobolev inequality.

Denote by  $(u_{\sigma_m, \mu_m}^+)_m$  a countable subsequence of the sequence  $(u_{\sigma,\mu}^+)_{{\sigma,\mu}}$  given above.

**Theorem 8.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian compact manifold of dimension  $n \geq 5$ . Let  $(u_m^+)_m = (u_{\sigma_m, \mu_m}^+)_m$  be a sequence in  $N_\lambda^+$  such that*

$$\begin{cases} J_{\lambda,\sigma,\mu}(u_m^+) \leq c_{\sigma,\mu} \\ \nabla J_\lambda(u_m^+) - \mu_{\sigma_m, \mu_m} \nabla \Phi_\lambda(u_m^+) \rightarrow 0 \end{cases}.$$

Suppose that

$$c_{\sigma,\mu} < \frac{2}{n K(n, 2)^{\frac{n}{4}} (\max_{x \in M} f(x))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}}$$

and

$$1 + a^- \max(K(n, 2, \sigma), A(\varepsilon, \sigma)) + b^- \max(K(n, 2, \mu), A(\varepsilon, \mu)) > 0$$

then the equation

$$(3.1) \quad \Delta^2 u - \nabla^\mu \left( \frac{a}{\rho^2} \nabla_\mu u \right) + \frac{bu}{\rho^4} = f |u|^{N-2} u + \lambda |u|^{q-2} u$$

has a non trivial solution  $u^+ \in N_\lambda^+$  in the distribution .

*Proof.* Let  $(u_m^+)_m = (u_{\sigma_m, \mu_m}^+)_m \subset N_\lambda^+$ ,

$$J_{\lambda,\sigma,\mu}(u_m^+) = \frac{N-2}{2N} \|u_m^+\|^2 - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \int_M |u_m^+|^q dv_g$$

As in proof of Theorem 6, we get

$$J_{\lambda,\sigma,\mu}(u_m^+) \geq \|u_m^+\|^2 \left( \frac{N-2}{2N} - \lambda \frac{N-q}{Nq} \Lambda_{\sigma,\mu}^{-\frac{q}{2}} V(M)^{1-\frac{q}{N}} (\max((1+\varepsilon)K(n, 2), A_\varepsilon))^{\frac{q}{2}} \tau^{q-2} \right) > 0$$

where  $0 < \lambda < \frac{(N-2)q}{2(N-q)} \Lambda_{\sigma,\mu}^{\frac{q}{2}}$  and  $\Lambda_{\sigma,\mu}$  is the coercivity's constant ( which depends on  $\sigma$  and  $\mu$  )

First we claim that

$$\lim_{(\sigma,\mu) \rightarrow (2^-, 4^-)} \inf \Lambda_{\sigma,\mu} > 0.$$

Indeed, if  $\nu_{1,\sigma,\mu}$  denotes the first nonzero eigenvalue of the operator  $u \rightarrow P_g(u) = \Delta_g^2 u - \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \nabla_g u \right) + \frac{bu}{\rho^\mu}$ , then clearly  $\Lambda_{\sigma,\mu} \geq \nu_{1,\sigma,\mu}$ . Suppose by absurd that  $\lim_{(\sigma,\mu) \rightarrow (2^-, 4^-)} \inf \Lambda_{\sigma,\mu} = 0$ , then  $\liminf_{(\sigma,\mu) \rightarrow (2^-, 4^-)} \nu_{1,\sigma,\mu} = 0$ . Independently, if  $u_{\sigma,\mu}$  is the corresponding eigenfunction to  $\nu_{1,\sigma,\mu}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_{1,\sigma,\mu} &= \|\Delta u\|_2^2 + \int_M \frac{a |\nabla u|^2}{\rho^\sigma} dv_g + \int_M \frac{bu^2}{\rho^\mu} dv_g \\ (3.2) \quad &\geq \|\Delta u\|_2^2 + a^- \int \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{\rho^\sigma} dv_g + b^- \int_M \frac{u^2}{\rho^\mu} dv_g \end{aligned}$$

where  $a^- = \min(0, \min_{x \in M} a(x))$  and  $b^- = \min(0, \min_{x \in M} b(x))$ . The Hardy-Sobolev's inequality leads to

$$\int_M \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{\rho^\sigma} dv_g \leq C(\|\nabla |\nabla u|\|^2 + \|\nabla u\|^2)$$

and since

$$\|\nabla |\nabla u|\|^2 \leq \|\nabla^2 u\|^2 \leq \|\Delta u\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u\|^2$$

where  $\beta > 0$  is a constant and it is well known that for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a constant  $c(\varepsilon) > 0$  such that

$$\|\nabla u\|^2 \leq \varepsilon \|\Delta u\|^2 + c \|\nabla u\|^2.$$

Hence

$$(3.3) \quad \int_M \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{\rho^\sigma} dv_g \leq C(1 + \varepsilon) \|\Delta u\|^2 + A(\varepsilon) \|u\|^2$$

Now if  $K(n, 2, \sigma)$  denotes the best constant in inequality (3.3) we get for any  $\varepsilon > 0$

$$(3.4) \quad \int_M \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{\rho^\sigma} dv_g \leq (K(n, 2, \sigma)^2 + \varepsilon) \|\Delta u\|^2 + A(\varepsilon, \sigma) \|u\|^2.$$

By the inequalities (2.3), (3.2) and (3.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_{1,\sigma,\mu} &\geq (1 + a^- \max(K(n, 2, \sigma), A(\varepsilon, \sigma)) + b^- \max(K(n, 2, \mu), A(\varepsilon, \mu))) \\ &\quad \times (\|\Delta u_{\sigma,\mu}\|^2 + \|u_{\sigma,\mu}\|^2). \end{aligned}$$

So if

$$1 + a^- \max(K(n, 2, \sigma), A(\varepsilon, \sigma)) + b^- \max(K(n, 2, \mu), A(\varepsilon, \mu)) > 0$$

then we get  $\lim_{\sigma,\mu} (u_{\sigma,\mu}) = 0$  and  $\|u_{\sigma,\mu}\| = 1$  a contradiction. Denote by

$$\Lambda = \liminf_{\sigma,\mu} \Lambda_{\sigma,\mu}.$$

The same arguments as in the proof of Theorem 6 we obtain that

$$a_\lambda^+ \left( \frac{N-2}{Nq} - \frac{N-2}{2N} \right)^{-1} \leq \|u_m^+\|_{\sigma,\mu}^2 \leq -a_\lambda^+ \left( \frac{N-2}{Nq} - \frac{N-2}{2N} \right)^{-1} + o(1)$$

where

$$\|u^+\|_{\sigma,\mu}^2 = \|\Delta u^+\|_2^2 - \int_M \left( a(x) \frac{|\nabla_g u^+|^2}{\rho^\sigma} + \frac{b(x)}{\rho^\mu} (u^+)^2 \right) dv(g).$$

It is easily seen by the Lebesgue' dominated convergence theorem that  $\|u^+\|_{\sigma,\mu}$  goes to  $\|u^+\|_{2,4}$  as  $(\sigma, \mu) \rightarrow (2, 4)$ .

Now by reflexivity of  $H_2^2(M)$  and the compactness of the embedding  $H_2^2(M) \subset H_p^k(M)$  ( $k = 0, 1$ ;  $p < N$ ), we obtain up to a subsequence we have:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{\sigma_m, \mu_m}^+ &\rightarrow u^+ \text{ weakly in } H_2^2(M) \\ u_{\sigma_m, \mu_m}^+ &\rightarrow u^+ \text{ strongly in } L^p(M), p < N \\ \nabla u_{\sigma_m, \mu_m}^+ &\rightarrow \nabla u^+ \text{ strongly in } L^p(M), p < 2^* = \frac{2n}{n-2} \\ u_{\sigma_m, \mu_m}^+ &\rightarrow u^+ \text{ a.e. in } M. \end{aligned}$$

For brevity we let  $u_m^+ = u_{\sigma_m, \mu_m}^+$

The Brézis-Lieb lemma allows us to write

$$\int_M (\Delta_g u_m^+)^2 dv_g = \int_M (\Delta_g u^+)^2 dv_g + \int_M (\Delta_g (u_m^+ - u^+))^2 dv_g + o(1)$$

and also

$$\int_M f(x) |u_m^+|^N dv_g = \int_M f(x) |u^+|^N dv_g + \int_M f(x) |u_m^+ - u^+|^N dv_g + o(1).$$

Now by the boundedness of the sequence  $(u_m^+)_m$ , we have that  $u_m^+ \rightarrow u^+$  weakly in  $H_2^2(M)$ ,  $\nabla u_m^+ \rightarrow \nabla u^+$  weakly in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-2})$  and  $u_m^+ \rightarrow u^+$  weakly in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-4})$  i.e. for any  $\varphi \in L^2(M)$ . If  $\delta \in (0, \delta(M))$  then we obtain for every  $\varphi \in H_2^2(M)$

$$(3.5) \quad \int_M \frac{b(x)}{\rho^{\mu_m}} (u_m^+)^2 \varphi dv(g) = \int_{B_P(\delta)} \frac{b(x)}{\rho^{\mu_m}} (u_m^+)^2 dv(g) + \int_{M-B_P(\delta)} \frac{b(x)}{\rho^{\mu_m}} (u_m^+)^2 dv(g)$$

and

$$\int_M \frac{b(x)}{\rho^{\delta_m}} (u^+)^2 dv(g) = \int_M \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} (u^+)^2 dv(g) + o(1) \quad \text{when } \delta_m \rightarrow 4^-.$$

Now the fact  $u_m^+ \rightarrow u^+$  weakly in  $H_2^2(M)$ ,  $\nabla u_m^+ \rightarrow \nabla u^+$  weakly in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-2})$  and  $u_m^+ \rightarrow u^+$  weakly in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-4})$  expresses as: for all  $\varphi \in L^2(M)$ :

$$\int_M \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla u_m^+ \nabla \varphi dv(g) = \int_M \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla u^+ \nabla \varphi dv(g) + o(1)$$

and

$$\int_M \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} u_m^+ \varphi dv(g) = \int_M \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} u^+ \varphi dv(g) + o(1).$$

Consequently  $u^+$  is a weak solution to equation (3.1).

Since  $u_m^+ \rightarrow u^+$  weakly in  $H_2^2(M)$ , we have for all  $\phi \in L^2(M)$

$$\int_M (u_m^+ - u^+) \Delta_g^2 \phi dv(g) = o(1)$$

then,

$$\int_M u_m^+ \Delta_g^2 \phi dv(g) = \int_M \Delta_g \phi \Delta_g u^+ dv(g) + o(1).$$

For the second integral, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_M \left( \frac{a(x)}{\rho^{\sigma_m}} \nabla_g u_m^+ - \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla_g u^+ \right) \nabla \phi dv(g) = \\ & \int_M \left( \frac{a(x)}{\rho^{\sigma_m}} \nabla_g u_m^+ + \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} (\nabla_g u_m^+ - \nabla_g u^+) - \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla_g u^+ \right) \nabla \phi dv(g). \end{aligned}$$

Consequently

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_M \left( \frac{a(x)}{\rho^{\sigma_m}} \nabla_g u_m^+ - \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla_g u^+ \right) \nabla \phi dv(g) \right| \leq \\ & \left| \int_M \left( \frac{a(x)}{\rho^{\sigma_m}} \nabla_g u_m^+ - \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla_g u_m^+ \right) \nabla \phi dv(g) \right| + \left| \int_M \left( \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla_g u_m^+ - \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla_g u^+ \right) \nabla \phi dv(g) \right| \\ & \leq \left| \int_M \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla_g (u_m^+ - u^+) \nabla \phi dv(g) \right| + \int_M |a(x) \nabla \phi \nabla_g u_m^+| \left| \frac{1}{\rho^{\sigma_m}} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right| dv(g). \end{aligned}$$

By the weak convergence in  $L^2(M, \rho^{-2})$  and the dominated Lebesgue's convergence theorem, we obtain that

$$\int_M \left( \frac{a(x)}{\rho^{\sigma_m}} \nabla_g u_m^+ - \frac{a(x)}{\rho^2} \nabla_g u^+ \right) \nabla \phi dv(g) = o(1).$$

The third integral splits as

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_M \left( \frac{b(x)}{\rho^{\mu_m}} u_m^+ - \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} u^+ \right) \phi dv(g) = \\ & \int_M \left( \frac{b(x)}{\rho^{\mu_m}} u_m^+ - \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} u_m^+ + \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} u_m^+ - \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} u^+ \right) \phi dv(g) \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_M \left( \frac{b(x)}{\rho^{\mu_m}} u_m^+ - \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} u^+ \right) \phi dv(g) \right| \\ & \leq \int_M |b(x) \phi u_m| \left| \frac{1}{\rho^{\mu_m}} - \frac{1}{\rho^4} \right| dv(g) + \left| \int_M \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} (u_m^+ - u^+) \phi dv(g) \right| \end{aligned}$$

and by the same arguments, we obtain that

$$\int_M \left( \frac{b(x)}{\rho^{\delta_m}} u_m^+ - \frac{b(x)}{\rho^4} u^+ \right) \phi dv(g) = o(1) .$$

It remains to show that  $\mu_m \rightarrow 0$  as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$  and  $u_m^+ \rightarrow u^+$  strongly in  $H_2^2(M)$  but this is the same as in the proof of Theorem 7.

Consequently  $u^+$  is a nontrivial solution in  $N_\lambda^+$  of equation .

□

## 4. TEST FUNCTIONS

To give the proof of the main result, we consider a normal geodesic coordinate system centred at  $x_o$ . Let  $S_{x_o}(\rho)$  the geodesic sphere centred at  $x_o$  and of radius  $\rho$  strictly less than the injectivity radius  $d$ . Let  $dv_h$  be the volume element of the  $n - 1$ -dimensional Euclidean unit sphere  $S^{n-1}$  endowed with its canonical metric and put

$$G(\rho) = \frac{1}{\omega_{n-1}} \int_{S(\rho)} \sqrt{|g(x)|} dv_h$$

where  $\omega_{n-1}$  is the volume of  $S^{n-1}$  and  $|g(x)|$  the determinant of the Riemannian metric  $g$ . The Taylor's expansion of  $G(\rho)$  in a neighborhood of  $x_o$  expresses as

$$G(\rho) = 1 - \frac{S_g(x_o)}{6n} \rho^2 + o(\rho^2)$$

where  $S_g(x_o)$  is the scalar curvature of  $M$  at  $x_o$ .

If  $B(x_o, \delta)$  is the geodesic ball centred at  $x_o$  and of radius  $\delta$  such that  $0 < 2\delta < d$ , we consider the following cutoff smooth function  $\eta$  on  $M$

$$\eta(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{on } B(x_o, \delta) \\ 0 & \text{on } M - B(x_o, 2\delta) \end{cases}.$$

Define the following radial function

$$u_\epsilon(x) = \left( \frac{(n-4)n(n^2-4)\epsilon^4}{f(x_o)} \right)^{\frac{n-4}{8}} \frac{\eta(\rho)}{((\rho\theta)^2 + \epsilon^2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}}$$

with

$$\theta = \left( 1 + \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r + \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^\mu} \right\|_s \right)^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

where  $\rho = d(x_o, x)$  is the distance from  $x_o$  to  $x$  and  $f(x_o) = \max_{x \in M} f(x)$ . We need also the following integrals: for any real positive numbers  $p, q$  such that  $p - q > 1$  we put

$$I_p^q = \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{t^q}{(1+t)^p} dt$$

which fulfill the following relations

$$I_{p+1}^q = \frac{p-q-1}{p} I_p^q \quad \text{and} \quad I_{p+1}^{q+1} = \frac{q+1}{p-q-1} I_{p+1}^q.$$

5. APPLICATION TO COMPACT RIEMANNIAN MANIFOLDS OF DIMENSION  
 $n > 6$ 

**Theorem 9.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact Riemannian manifold of dimension  $n > 6$ . Suppose that at a point  $x_o$  where  $f$  attains its maximum the following*

condition

$$\frac{\Delta f(x_o)}{f(x_o)} < \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{(n-1)n(n^2+4n-20)}{(n^2-4)(n-4)(n-6)} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r + \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^\mu} \right\|_s\right)^{\frac{4}{n}}} - 1 \right) S_g(x_o)$$

holds . Then the equation (1.1) has at least two non trivial solutions.

*Proof.* The proof of Theorem 2 reduces to show that the condition (C1) of Theorem 6 which is the same condition (2.4) of Theorem ?? is satisfied and since at the end of section 1, we have shown that for a given  $u \in H_2^2(M)$  there exist two real numbers  $t^- > 0$  and  $t^+ > 0$  such that  $t^- u \in N_\lambda^-$  and  $t^+ u \in N_\lambda^+$  for sufficiently small  $\lambda$ , so it suffices to show that

$$\sup_{t>0} J_\lambda(tu_\epsilon) < \frac{1}{K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (\max_{x \in M} f(x))^{\frac{n}{4}-1}}.$$

The expression of  $\int_M f(x) |u_\epsilon(x)|^N dv_g$  is well known (see for example [10] ) and is given in case  $n > 6$  by

$$\int_M f(x) |u_\epsilon(x)|^N dv_g = \frac{\theta^{-n}}{K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (f(x_o))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\Delta f(x_o)}{2(n-2)f(x_o)} + \frac{S_g(x_o)}{6(n-2)} \right) \epsilon^2 + o(\epsilon^2) \right).$$

The following estimation is computed in [7] and is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M \frac{a(x)}{\rho^\sigma} |\nabla u_\epsilon|^2 dv_g &\leq \\ 2^{-1+\frac{1}{r}} \theta^{-n\frac{r}{r-1}} (n-4)^2 &\left( \frac{(n-4)n(n^2-4)\epsilon^4}{f(x_o)} \right)^{\frac{n-4}{4}} \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r \omega_{n-1}^{1-\frac{1}{r}} \epsilon^{-(n-4)+2-\frac{n}{r}} \\ &\times \left( I_{\frac{(n-2)r}{r-1}}^{1+\frac{n-2}{2}\cdot\frac{r-1}{r}} + o(\epsilon^2) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Letting

$$(5.1) \quad A = K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} \frac{(n-4)^{\frac{n}{4}+1} \times (\omega_{n-1})^{\frac{r-1}{r}}}{2^{\frac{r-1}{r}}} (n(n^2-4))^{\frac{n-4}{4}} \left( I_{\frac{(n-2)r}{r-1}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}+\frac{r}{r-1}} \right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}}$$

we obtain

$$\int_M a(x) |\nabla u_\epsilon|^2 dv_g \leq \epsilon^{2-\frac{n}{r}} \theta^{-n\frac{r}{r-1}} \frac{A}{K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (f(x_o))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r (1 + o(\epsilon^2)).$$

Also the estimation of the third term of  $J_\lambda$  is computed in [7] as

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M \frac{b(x)}{\rho^\mu} u_\epsilon^2 dv_g &\leq \|b\|_s \left( \frac{(n-4)n(n^2-4)}{f(x_o)} \right)^{\frac{n-4}{4}} \left( \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{2} \right)^{\frac{s-1}{s}} \epsilon^{4-\frac{n}{s}} \theta^{-n\frac{s}{s-1}} \\ &\times \left( \left( I_{\frac{(n-4)s}{(s-1)}}^{\frac{n}{2}} \right)^{\frac{s-1}{s}} + o(\epsilon^2) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Putting

$$(5.2) \quad B = K_{\circ}^{\frac{n}{4}} ((n-4)n(n^2-4))^{\frac{n-4}{4}} \left( \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{2} \right)^{\frac{s-1}{s}} \left( I_{\frac{n}{\frac{(n-4)s}{(s-1)}}}^{\frac{n}{2}} \right)^{\frac{s-1}{s}}$$

we get

$$\int_M b(x) u_{\epsilon}^2 dv_g \leq \epsilon^{4-\frac{n}{s}} \theta^{-n \frac{s}{s-1}} \frac{\left\| \frac{b}{\rho^{\mu}} \right\|_s B}{K_{\circ}^{\frac{n}{4}} (f(x_{\circ}))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} (1 + o(\epsilon^2)).$$

The computation of  $\int_M (\Delta u_{\epsilon})^2 dv_g$  is well known see for example ([10]) and is given by

$$\int_M (\Delta u_{\epsilon})^2 dv_g = \frac{\theta^{-n}}{K_{\circ}^{\frac{n}{4}} (f(x_{\circ}))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} \left( 1 - \frac{n^2 + 4n - 20}{6(n^2 - 4)(n - 6)} S_g(x_{\circ}) \epsilon^2 + o(\epsilon^2) \right).$$

Resuming we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M (\Delta u_{\epsilon})^2 - a(x) |\nabla u_{\epsilon}|^2 + b(x) u_{\epsilon}^2 dv_g &\leq \frac{\theta^{-n}}{K_{\circ}^{\frac{n}{4}} f(x_{\circ})^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} \times \\ &\left( 1 + \epsilon^{2-\frac{n}{r}} \theta^{-\frac{n}{r-1}} A \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^{\sigma}} \right\|_r + \epsilon^{4-\frac{n}{s}} \theta^{-\frac{n}{s-1}} B \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^{\mu}} \right\|_s - \frac{n^2 + 4n - 20}{6(n^2 - 4)(n - 6)} S_g(x_{\circ}) \epsilon^2 + o(\epsilon^2) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} J_{\lambda}(tu_{\epsilon}) &\leq J_o(tu_{\epsilon}) = \frac{t^2}{2} \|u_{\epsilon}\|^2 - \frac{t^N}{N} \int_M f(x) |u_{\epsilon}(x)|^N dv_g \\ &\leq \frac{\theta^{-n}}{K_{\circ}^{\frac{n}{4}} f(x_{\circ})^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} t^2 \left( 1 + \epsilon^{2-\frac{n}{r}} \theta^{-\frac{n}{r-1}} A \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^{\sigma}} \right\|_r + \epsilon^{4-\frac{n}{s}} \theta^{-\frac{n}{s-1}} B \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^{\mu}} \right\|_s \right) - \frac{t^N}{N} \right. \\ &+ \left[ \left( \frac{\Delta f(x_{\circ})}{2(n-2)f(x_{\circ})} + \frac{S_g(x_{\circ})}{6(n-1)} \right) \frac{t^N}{N} - \frac{1}{2} t^2 \frac{n^2 + 4n - 20}{6(n^2 - 4)(n - 6)} S_g(x_{\circ}) \right] \epsilon^2 \left. \right\} \\ &\quad + o(\epsilon^2) \end{aligned}$$

and letting  $\epsilon$  small enough so that

$$1 + \epsilon^{2-\frac{n}{r}} \theta^{-\frac{n}{r-1}} A \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^{\sigma}} \right\|_r + \epsilon^{4-\frac{n}{s}} \theta^{-\frac{n}{s-1}} B \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^{\mu}} \right\|_s \leq \left( 1 + \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^{\sigma}} \right\|_r + \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^{\mu}} \right\|_s \right)^{\frac{4}{n}}$$

and since the function  $\varphi(t) = \alpha \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{t^N}{N}$ , with  $\alpha > 0$  and  $t > 0$ , attains its maximum at  $t_o = \alpha^{\frac{1}{N-2}}$  and

$$\varphi(t_o) = \frac{2}{n} \alpha^{\frac{n}{4}}.$$

Consequently, we get

$$\begin{aligned} J_{\lambda}(tu_{\epsilon}) &\leq \frac{2\theta^{-n}}{n K_{\circ}^{\frac{n}{4}} f(x_{\circ})^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} \left\{ 1 + \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^{\sigma}} \right\|_r + \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^{\mu}} \right\|_s \right. \\ &+ \left. \left[ \left( \frac{\Delta f(x_{\circ})}{2(n-2)f(x_{\circ})} + \frac{S_g(x_{\circ})}{6(n-1)} \right) \frac{t_o^N}{N} - \frac{1}{2} t_o^2 \frac{n^2 + 4n - 20}{6(n^2 - 4)(n - 6)} S_g(x_{\circ}) \right] \epsilon^2 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$+o(\epsilon^2).$$

Taking account of the value of  $\theta$  and putting

$$R(t) = \left( \frac{\Delta f(x_o)}{2(n-2)f(x_o)} + \frac{S_g(x_o)}{6(n-1)} \right) \frac{t^N}{N} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{n^2 + 4n - 20}{6(n^2 - 4)(n-6)} S_g(x_o) t^2$$

we obtain

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} J_\lambda(tu_\epsilon) < \frac{2}{n K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (\max_{x \in M} f(x))^{\frac{n}{4}-1}}$$

provided that  $R(t_o) < 0$  i.e.

$$\frac{\Delta f(x_o)}{f(x_o)} < \left( \frac{n(n^2 + 4n - 20)}{3(n+2)(n-4)(n-6)} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r + \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^\mu} \right\|_s\right)^{\frac{4}{n}}} - \frac{n-2}{3(n-1)} \right) S_g(x_o).$$

Which completes the proof.  $\square$

## 6. APPLICATION TO COMPACT RIEMANNIAN MANIFOLDS OF DIMENSION $n = 6$

**Theorem 10.** *In case  $n = 6$ , we suppose that at a point  $x_o$  where  $f$  attains its maximum  $S_g(x_o) > 0$ . Then the equation (1.1) has at least two distinct non trivial solutions in the distribution sense..*

*Proof.* In case  $n = 6$  the only term whose expression differs from the case  $n > 6$  is the first term of  $J_\lambda$  and is given ( see for example [10]) by

$$\int_M (\Delta u_\epsilon)^2 dv_g = \frac{\theta^n}{K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (f(x_o))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} \left( 1 - \frac{2(n-4)}{n^2(n^2-4)I_n^{\frac{n}{2}-1}} S_g(x_o) \epsilon^2 \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}\right) + O(\epsilon^2) \right).$$

Letting  $\epsilon$  so that

$$1 + \epsilon^{2-\frac{n}{r}} \theta^{-\frac{n}{r-1}} A \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r + \epsilon^{4-\frac{n}{s}} \theta^{-\frac{n}{s-1}} B \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^\mu} \right\|_s \leq \left( 1 + \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r + \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^\mu} \right\|_s \right)^{\frac{4}{n}}$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are given by (5.1) and (5.2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} J_\lambda(u_\epsilon) &\leq \frac{1}{2} \|u_\epsilon\|^2 - \frac{1}{N} \int_M f(x) |u_\epsilon(x)|^N dv_g \\ &\leq \frac{\theta^n}{K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (f(x_o))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}} \left[ \frac{t^2}{2} \left( 1 + \left\| \frac{a}{\rho^\sigma} \right\|_r + \left\| \frac{b}{\rho^\mu} \right\|_s \right)^{1-\frac{4}{n}} - \frac{t^N}{N} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{n-4}{n^2(n^2-4)I_n^{\frac{n}{2}-1}} \theta^{-2} S_g(x_o) t^2 \epsilon^2 \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}\right) \right] + O(\epsilon^2). \end{aligned}$$

As in the case  $n > 6$  we infer that

$$\max_{t \geq 0} J_\lambda(tu_\epsilon) < \frac{2}{n K_o^{\frac{n}{4}} (f(x_o))^{\frac{n-4}{4}}}$$

provided that

$$S_g(x_0) > 0.$$

Which achieves the proof.  $\square$

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